

ABSTRACT

5 Catheters and methods for epicardial ablation are provided. A suitable
catheter comprises an elongated catheter body and an ultrasound transducer
mounted at or near the distal end of the catheter body. The transducer has a
front surface and an opposing back surface, wherein the transducer is positioned
to transmit ultrasound energy toward tissue facing the front surface but not
10 toward tissue facing the back surface. A sensor is mounted within the catheter
near the ultrasound transducer for sensing a location and an orientation of the
ultrasound transducer within a patient. A suitable method involves introducing
the distal end of the catheter introducing into the pericardium of a patient. The
15 transducer's front surface is positioned so that it generally faces tissue to be
ablated, and the tissue is ablated with ultrasound energy generated by the
transducer.